

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5854

AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, PINR, GW, UK, PL

SUBJECT: FRG AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TO LONDON, DR. HANS  
HELLMUTH RUETE

REF: (A) BONN A-703 OF JUNE 12, 1970 (NOTAL)  
(B) PARIS A-1097 OF DECEMBER 22, 1972 (NOTAL)  
(C) LONDON A-86 OF FEBRUARY 4, 1977

1. THE FRG CABINET DECIDED ON FEBRUARY 2 TO TRANSFER  
DR. HANS HELLMUTH RUETE, FRG AMBASSADOR TO WARSAW SINCE  
1972, TO LONDON. THE FRG HAS NOT YET ANNOUNCED RECEIPT  
OF AGREEMENT FOR THIS APPOINTMENT. IN RESPONSE TO THE  
REQUEST IN REF (C), WE HAVE PREPARED THE FOLLOWING  
BIOGRAPHIC SKETCH ON AMBASSADOR RUETE, WITH WHOM THIS  
EMBASSY HAS HAD NO RECORDED CONTACT SINCE 1970.

2. AMBASSADOR RUETE WAS BORN IN ST. PETERSBURG (LENIN-  
GRAD) ON DECEMBER 21, 1914. HIS FATHER WAS A PROFESSOR  
AT MARBURG UNIVERSITY; HIS MATERNAL GRANDFATHER WAS A  
BANKER AND INDUSTRIALIST WHO HAD BEEN PROMINENT IN ST.  
PETERSBURG. THE FAMILY RETURNED TO GERMANY WHEN RUETE  
WAS QUITE YOUNG. HE GREW UP IN THE AREA OF MARBURG  
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UNIVERSITY, WHERE HIS FATHER TAUGHT MEDICINE AND DIRECT-  
ED A UNIVERSITY CLINIC.

3. RUETE CONCLUDED HIS STUDIES OF LAW AND POLITICAL  
SCIENCE IN GERMANY AND SWITZERLAND IN 1938, WHEN HE  
PASSED THE FIRST STATE EXAMINATION IN LAW AND EARNED  
HIS DOCTORATE IN LAW. HIS TRAINING FOR THE SENIOR LEGAL

SERVICE WAS INTERRUPTED BY TWO YEARS OF STUDY IN JAPAN (1939-1941), DURING WHICH TIME HE WORKED FOR THE GERMAN EMBASSY IN TOKYO, AND BY MILITARY SERVICE ON THE EASTERN FRONT (1941-1945), WHERE HE WAS SEVERELY WOUNDED AND LOST A LEG. AFTER WORLD WAR II, RUETE COMPLETED HIS TRAINING FOR THE SENIOR LEGAL SERVICE. IN 1946, HE PASSED THE OBLIGATORY SECOND STATE EXAMINATION IN LAW. HE THEN SERVED AS DISTRICT ATTORNEY AND JUDGE IN THE LAND OF HESSEN (1949-1950), AND WITH THE FRG MINISTRY OF JUSTICE IN BONN (1950-1952).

4. IN MAY 1952, RUETE WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE. HE SERVED WITH THE FRG EMBASSY IN TOKYO (1952-1956), AND AS HEAD OF THE USSR SECTION IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE (1956-1960). AFTER STUDYING AT THE CENTER OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY (1960-1961), RUETE BECAME CONSUL GENERAL IN CALCUTTA (1961-1964), HEAD OF A SUBDIVISION OF THE EASTERN DIVISION OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE (1964-1966), AND HEAD OF THE SECOND POLITICAL DIVISION OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE (1966-1970). IN THAT LATTER CAPACITY, HE SUCCESSFULLY NEGOTIATED THE RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH YUGOSLAVIA AND ROMANIA.

5. RUETE WAS FRG AMBASSADOR TO PARIS IN 1970-1972. SINCE OCTOBER 1972, HE HAS SERVED IN WARSAW AS THE FIRST FRG AMBASSADOR SINCE THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ON SEPTEMBER 14, 1972.

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6. RUETE IS A QUIET, WELL-EDUCATED INTELLECTUAL WITH A FONDNESS FOR LITERATURE AND CLASSICAL MUSIC. REPORTEDLY, HE ALSO WRITES POETRY. RUETE AND HIS WIFE (NEE RUTH ARFSTEN) MARRIED IN 1948 AND HAVE THREE GROWN-UP CHILDREN WHO WERE BORN IN MARBURG, TOKYO, AND BOSTON. THEY BOTH SPEAK FLUENT ENGLISH; IN ADDITION, RUETE SPEAKS FRENCH AND JAPANESE. POOR HEALTH HAS REPORTEDLY BOTHERED RUETE IN RECENT YEARS.

7. COMMENT: RUETE IS ONE OF THE MOST DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE FRG FOREIGN SERVICE. EMBASSY OFFICERS WHO KNEW RUETE IN THE LATTER HALF OF THE 1960'S, WHEN HE FREQUENTLY VISITED WASHINGTON, RECALL THAT HE WAS WELL-RESPECTED AND HIGHLY COMPETENT. THIS IS THE VIEW OF OTHER AMERICANS WHO HAVE DEALT WITH HIM IN BONN. END COMMENT.  
STOESSEL

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## Message Attributes

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